

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07

EPA-04 SCI-06 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /118 W

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P R 071717Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1081

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, UK, FR

SUBJ: CONCORDE FLIGHTS TO BOSTON

REF: STATE 119763

1. WE HAD CALL AFTERNOON JUNE 7 FROM KEN BINNING,
DIRECTOR GENERAL CONCORDE PROJECT, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY.
HE SAID HE HAD JUST HAD A TELEPHONE CALL FROM
MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY DISAVOWING FAY TELEGRAM
QUOTED REFTEL AND RENEWING AND URGING ACCEPTANCE OF
INVITATION TO FLY CONCORDE TO BOSTON. HE SAID MPA
TOLD HIM VOTE HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH SOLID MAJORITY IN
FAVOR OF CONCORDE FLIGHT.

2. BINNING SAID CURRENT SITUATION PLACED HIM IN
DILEMMA AND ASKED WHETHER WE COULD, UNOFFICIALLY, OFFER
HIM ANY GUIDANCE. WE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT BEYOND
TELLING HIM HE WOULD HAVE TO BALANCE SHORT TERM
ADVANTAGE OF EARLY FLIGHT TO BOSTON TO SHOW CONCORDE AND
DEMONSTRATE ITS OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS
AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF STIRRING UP ENVIRONMENTALISTS
BEFORE GROUND WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED FOR COMMENCEMENT
OF SERVICES TO US. WE TOLD HIM WE HAD NO REAL FEEL FOR
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DANGERS, IN ANY, POSED BY LATTER POSSIBILITY.

3. BINNING SAID HIS INCLINATION WAS TO TELL MPA THAT RENEWAL OF INVITATION HAD COME TOO LATE FOR BRITISH AND FRENCH TO UNSCRAMBLE CONCORDE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM TO RESCHEDULE FLIGHT TO BOSTON AT THIS TIME. HE THOUGHT FRENCH WOULD GO ALONG WITH THIS BUT SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW IF SITUATION CHANGES AND FLIGHT IS RESCHEDULED.

4. BINNING TOLD US HE FOUND FEDERAL AGENCIES UNIFORMLY HELPFUL DURING HIS VISIT TO US LAST MONTH BUT THAT AIRPORT AUTHORITIES WITH WHOM HE TALKED NOT VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CONCORDE PERFORMANCE AND HAD MANY MISCONCEPTIONS. VISIT PROVED TO HIM, HE SAID, THAT BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO DO TO EDUCATE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN US ON CONCORDE OPERATIONS. HE SAID THEY ARE NOW GEARING UP TO TRY ACCOMPLISH THIS.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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